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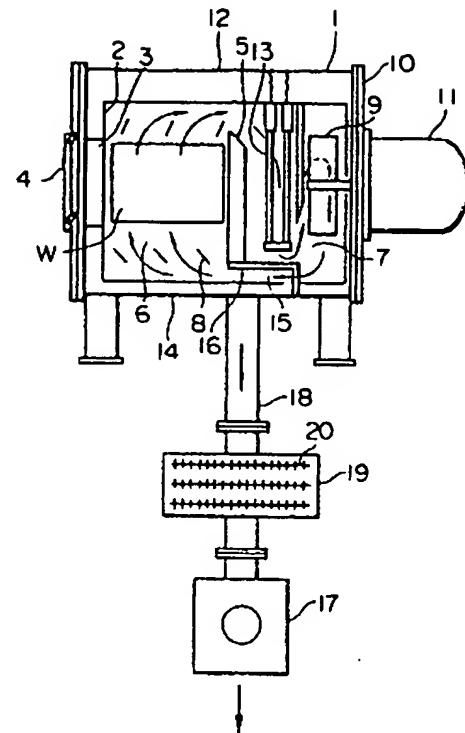
APPLICATION DATE : 16-12-85  
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TITLE : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
 CLEANING INSIDE OF TEMPERING  
 FURNACE



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To clean up the inside of a tempering furnace in which an inert gas is used as a heat medium without damaging a vacuum pump by heating the inside of the furnace to a high temp., evacuating the same to a vacuum to gassify the impurities in the furnace and evacuating the gas by the vacuum pump via a cooler.

CONSTITUTION: The inside of the tempering furnace 1 is evacuated by the vacuum pump 17 in an ordinary temp. state to a vacuum and thereafter the high-purity inert gas such as N<sub>2</sub> or Ar is introduced therein. A heater 13 in the furnace is then energized to generate heat and a circulation fan 9 is rotated to heat the inside of the furnace to the temp. higher than the tempering treatment temp. by which the moisture and oil sticking to the inside wall, heat insulating material or heater, etc., of the furnace are evaporated. The vapor is discharged as the gaseous impurities. The energization of the heater 13 is stopped after the above-mentioned operation is executed for the prescribed time. The impurity-contg. gas in the furnace is discharged in succession thereto and at the same time the fresh inert gas is supplied into the furnace. The gaseous impurity contg. gas is cooled with a cooler 19 and is discharged by the vacuum pump 17.

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